

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----075590 101704Z /46
O 101627Z SEP 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5400
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 12113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, LE, SY, UN
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON
REF: A) STATE 229141, B) USDEL CAMP DAVID 081533Z SEP 78

1. I HAD LUNCH SEPTEMBER 10 WITH GENERAL GAZIT TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON. BLACKWILL AND TWO OF GAZIT'S AIDES WERE ALSO PRESENT.
2. BEGAN BY ASKING WHAT WAS PRESENT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO UNIFIL ACCESS TO CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES. GAZIT SAID THAT CURRENT DISAGREEMENT WAS EXAMPLE OF DIFFICULTY IN TRANSLATING "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" (WEIZMAN-SIILASVUO UNDERSTANDING OF AUGUST 30) INTO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON THE GROUND. HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC WERE NOT EAGER TO COOPERATE, ESPECIALLY IN BITTER AFTERMATH OF GOL LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL. EVEN SO, THE CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS HAD NOW AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:
--1) UNIFIL COULD OPEN LIAISON OFFICES IN MARJAYOUN AND NEAR BINT JBAIL;

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- 2) THE UN COULD ADD SIX OR SEVEN OBSERVATION POSTS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER TO ITS PRESENT NUMBER OF THREE;
AND
--3) THE MAIN ROAD TO FATAHLAND PAST THE NEPALESE AND NORWEGIAN CONTINGENTS HAD BEEN OPENED TO UNIFIL LOGISTIC TRAFFIC.

3. HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC HAD AGREED TO THESE THREE MEASURES, AND CURRENT DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION WAS DUE TO UN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, GAZIT DENIED THAT ANY WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND UNIFIL WAS REQUIRED. HE REPEATED PRESENT HOLD-UP WAS ENTIRELY RESPONSIBILITY OF UN.

4. THERE NEXT ENSUED LENGTHY EXCHANGE CONCERNING WHAT WEIZMAN HAD OR HAD NOT AGREED TO IN AUGUST 30 MEETING WITH SIILASVUO. I SAID THREE POINTS ABOVE DID NOT MEET WEIZMAN'S COMMITMENTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING UNIFIL'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE ENCLAVES. ADDING THAT WEIZMAN HAD CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS AT CAMP DAVID THAT HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC HAD WELSHED ON DEAL, I WENT OVER DIRE CONSEQUENCES IN NEW YORK OF GOI FAILURE TO MEET AUGUST 30 COMMITMENT.

5. GAZIT OBSERVED THAT WEIZMAN WAS A LONG WAY AWAY AND UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE SITUATION. NONETHELESS, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR PHONE CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 8, GAZIT HAD TELEPHONED HIM AND WEIZMAN HAD PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "NOT UNHAPPY" WITH PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AGREED TO BY HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC. GAZIT SAID THERE WERE TWO POSSIBILITIES NOW THAT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAD OCCURRED. THE UN COULD TAKE WHAT IT WAS BEING OFFERED AND, SHOWING PATIENCE, WORK TO GET MORE IN THE SECRET

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FUTURE. OR IT COULD HOLD OUT NOW FOR EVERYTHING AND CAUSE A CRISIS.

6. I RESPONDED THAT IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THERE WAS A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON UNIFIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THE UN WAS MAD AS A WET HEN BECAUSE IN ITS VIEW, THE GOI HAD VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENT. BLACKWILL THEN REMINDED GAZIT THAT TEHILA HAD TOLD CHARGE HART ON AUGUST 31 THAT ISRAELI AGREEMENT INCLUDED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN ENCLAVES FOR UNIFIL TROOPS AND WEIZMAN HAD SAID SAME THING TO HART AT AIRPORT SEPTEMBER 3 BEFORE DEPARTING FOR U.S. GAZIT OPINED THAT THERE WERE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THIS - EITHER THERE HAD BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING OR WEIZMAN HAD OVERESTIMATED HIS ABILITY TO DELIVER THE CHRISTIANS.

7. IN REACTION TO MY QUESTION OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, GAZIT SAID HE FELT UNDER NO PRESSURE TO FORCE FURTHER CONCESSIONS FROM THE CHRISTIANS. FOR HIM TO DO THAT WOULD TAKE A DIRECT MESSAGE FROM WEIZMAN FROM CAMP DAVID WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED HADDAD AND SHIDDIAC WERE NOT FULFILLING WEIZMAN'S COMMITMENT AND THEY SHOULD BE

BROUGHT INTO LINE. I THEN READ SELECTED PORTIONS OF
AMBASSADOR LEWIS' CONVERSATIONS AT CAMP DAVID WITH
WEIZMAN AND TEHILA TO TRY SHOW GAZIT THAT WEIZMAN HAD
ALREADY ADMITTED HADDAD HAD VIOLATED COMMITMENTS HE
HAD MADE TO THE ISRAELIS. GAZIT WAS UNIMPRESSED AND
REPEATED IT WOULD TAKE DIRECT ORDERS FROM WEIZMAN TO
ELICIT FURTHER GOI PRESSURE ON THE CHRISTIANS.

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EXDIS

8. DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN NORTH LEBANON FOLLOWS
SEPTTEL. VIETS

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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